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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/980,430	03/29/2002	Aart Zeger van Halteren	47161-00031USPX	3407

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EXAMINER

LE, HUYEN D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2615

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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Technology Center 2600

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 09/980,430
Filing Date: March 29, 2002
Appellant(s): VAN HALTEREN ET AL.

JUSTIN D. SWINFDELLS
For Appellant

REVISED EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 02/16/2006 and 12/06/2004 appealing from the Office action mailed 05/19/2004.

(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

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The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

5,861,686	LEE	01-1999
5,432,758	SONE	07-1995
6,023,518	KUWABARA et al.	02-2000

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 1 12, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention, claims 8-9 and 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee (U.S. patent 5,861,686), and claims 8, 10-11, 27, 29-31 and 33-36 are rejected under 35

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U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sone (U.S. patent 5,432,758). These rejections are set forth in a prior Office Action, mailed on 05/19/2004.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 28 is dependent on the withdrawn claim 12.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 8-9 and 31-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee (U.S. patent 5,861,686).

Regarding claims 8 and 31, Lee teaches a coil assembly for an electroacoustic transducer which comprises a coil (8) and an electric circuit board (3b, figures 1, 2, 3). As shown in the drawings, at least a surface portion of the electric circuit board is positioned against the coil in a substantially perpendicular relationship to the axis of the coil (8). The electric circuit board includes signal processing electronics as claimed (col. 3, lines 65-67).

Regarding claims 9 and 32, Lee teaches the electric circuit board (3b) is flexible (col. 3, lines 41-42 and lines 49-51).

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3. Claims 8, 10-11, 27, 29-31 and 33-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sone (U.S. patent 5,432,758).

Regarding claim 8, Sone teaches a coil assembly for an electroacoustic transducer which comprises a coil (20) and electric circuit board (40, 42, 44, 48, 50, 52, figures 1, 2, 7, 8, 9). As shown in the drawings, at least a surface portion of the electric circuit board is positioned against the coil in a substantially perpendicular relationship to the axis of the coil (20).

Regarding claim 10, Sone teaches the printed circuit board which is rigid (col. 4, lines 15-18 and lines 27-33 and col. 6, lines 8-10).

Regarding claim 11, Sone shows the electric circuit board which includes an opening (58) as claimed.

Regarding claim 27, Sone teaches the surface portion of the electric circuit board which is positioned against the coil by adhesion (col. 4, lines 57-61 and col. 6, lines 61-68 through col. 7, lines 1-5).

Regarding claim 29, Sone teaches the electric circuit board which includes electronics for signal processing (col. 4, lines 30-41).

Regarding claim 30, Sone teaches the electric circuit board which is electrically connected to the coil (20) via lead wires (22, 24).

Regarding claim 31, Sone teaches a coil assembly for an electroacoustic transducer which comprises a coil (20) and an electric circuit board (40, 42, 44, 48, 50, 52, figures 1, 2, 7, 8, 9). As shown in the drawings, at least a surface portion of the electric circuit board is positioned against the coil in a substantially perpendicular relationship to the axis of the coil (20). Further,

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Sone teaches the electric circuit board which includes electronics for signal processing (col. 4, lines 30-41).

Regarding claim 33, Sone teaches the printed circuit board which is rigid (col. 4, lines 15-18 and lines 27-33 and col. 6, lines 8-10).

Regarding claim 34, Sone shows the electric circuit board which includes an opening (58) as claimed.

Regarding claim 35, Sone teaches the surface portion of the electric circuit board which is positioned against the coil by adhesion (col. 4, lines 57-61 and col. 6, lines 61-68 through col. 7, lines 1-5).

Regarding claim 36, Sone teaches the electric circuit board which is electrically connected to the coil (20) via lead wires (22, 24).

(10) Response to Argument

Responding to the arguments about claim 28, since the amendment after final filed on July 19, 2004 has not been entered, claim 28 is still rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd as mentioned above.

Responding to the arguments about that “Sone does not disclose the claimed electric circuit board”, the Applicant should note that claims 8 and 31 do not claim a specific construction and/or functions of an electric circuit board that are different from the circuit board of Sone, as broadly claimed, Sone does teach an electric circuit board that comprises a board (4, 40, 42, 44, 48) with electrical terminals or electrically conductive patterns (50, 52, 22, 24) on its surfaces (also see col. 4, lines 31-34 and lines 36-40 and col. 6, lines 65-67).

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Responding to the arguments about the printed board (62) in Sone, this board (62) is just another board in the Sone device, and it is not included in the Office Action.

Responding to the arguments about the flexible circuit board, the examiner has dropped the rejections for claims 9 and 32 in Sone.

Responding to arguments in claims 11 and 34, as mentioned in the Office Action, Sone teaches an opening (58) that is substantially aligned with the coil opening (figures 1, 2).

Responding to the arguments about claim 36 (and claim 30), the Applicant should note that the printed circuit board (62) is not included in the Office Action. As mentioned above, Sone does teach the electric circuit board that is electrically connected to the coil via lead wires as claimed (22, 24, also see col. 4, lines 57-61 and col. 6, lines 61-68 through col. 7, lines 1-5).

Responding to the arguments about that "Lee does not even show a circuit board", the examiner refers to the Office Action. Further Lee does disclose that the second vibration member (3b) is used as a circuit board for the coil (col. 3, lines 50-52). This vibration member (3b) is made of a synthetic resin (col. 3, lines 40-41) and has the electrical terminals (13b, 33b, and 43b) on its surface.

Responding to the arguments about Kuwabara, the examiner has dropped the rejections under Kuwabara in the Office Action.

(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

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For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,



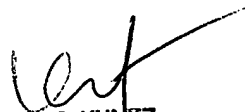
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